

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DURBAN 00090 080711Z

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 MCT-01

IO-13 DHA-02 /081 W

-----080717Z 068007 /21

R 011545Z MAR 77

FM AMCONSUL DURBAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2504

INFO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

UNCLAS DURBAN 0090

CAPE TOWN ALSO FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, PINT, SF

SUBJECT: NATAL TERRORISM TRIALS - ANOTHER CONVICTION

REF: A. DURBAN A-11 2/17/77 B. DURBAN 45

C. PRETORIA 400

1. LATEST OF FIVE TERRORISM ACT TRIALS SCHEDULED FOR NATAL (REF C) WAS COMPLETED FEBRUARY 28 WHEN TWO KWA MASHU (AFRICAN TOWNSHIP NORTH OF DURBAN) MEN WERE CONVICTED OF ARSON AND TERRORIST ACTIVITIES. THE MEN, TEHMBINKOSI ABNER SITHOLE (21) AND SAMUEL THAMSANGA MOHLOMI (19) WERE ACCUSED (A) OF PREPARING ON OCTOBER 27-28, 1976, PETROL BOMBS WHICH THEY LATER USED TO SET FIRE TO THREE SCHOOLS IN KWA MASHU, AND (B) OF RECRUITING OTHER BLACKS TO UNDERGO MILITARY TRAINING OUTSIDE SOUTH AFRICA. BOTH WERE ARRESTED ON NOVEMBER 11 NEAR SWAZILAND BORDER
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WHICH, POLICE ALLEGED, THEY WERE PLANNING TO CROSS TO UNDERGO MILITARY TRAINING.

2. DURING TRIAL WHICH BEGAN FEBRUARY 8, BOTH ACCUSED PLEADED GUILTY TO ARSON, BUT DENIED HAVING RECRUITED OTHER MEN FOR MILITARY TRAINING. SITHOLE FURTHER CLAIMED THAT HE WAS LEAVING SOUTH AFRICA

ON NOVEMBER 11 ONLY BECAUSE HE WAS DISSATISFIED
WITH EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM AND WISHED TO GET BETTER
TRAINING SO HE COULD EVENTUALLY BECOME A MINISTER
OF RELIGION.

3. ACTING JUSTICE VERMOOTEN PRECEDED HIS DECISION
BY STATING "HE THAT TAKES THE SWORD SHALL PERISH BY
THE SWORD". HE THEN CONVICTED BOTH MEN OF ARSON, SITHOLE
OF TWO COUNTS OF TERRORISM AND MOHLOMI OF ONE
COUNT. SITHOLE WAS SENTENCED TO TOTAL OF 14
YEARS IMPRISONMENT, FIVE YEARS TO RUN CONCURRENTLY
WITH OTHER NINE, AND MOHLOMI TO SEVEN YEARS.

4. OF THE OTHER FOUR TRIALS, TWO HAVE BEGUN,
ONE OF WHICH HAS BEEN COMPLETED. REF B REPORTED THE TWO
TRIALS, ONE OF
TWENTY ZULULAND UNIVERSITY STUDENTS ACCUSED OF
LEADING A RIOT AT THE SCHOOL LAST JUNE 18, AND
OTHER OF SEVEN MSINGA HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS ACCUSED
OF DAMAGING AND STONING SCHOOL BUILDINGS ON
JULY 24, 1976. CONVICTION OF FOUR AND ACQUITTAL
OF THREE OF THE LATTER GROUP ON FEBRUARY 14 WAS
REPORTED IN REF A.

5. IN ANC TERRORISM TRIAL IN PIETERMARITZBURG, WHICH
BEGAN LAST MAY 14, DEFENSE RESTED ITS CASE ON
FEBRUARY 28. STATE HAS REQUESTED PERMISSION
TO REBUT DEFENSE'S EVIDENCE, AND TRIAL WILL
CONTINUE MARCH 7. DECISION EXPECTED SOON
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AFTERWARD.
FARBER

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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